

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, LT

SUBJECT: UN SYMPOSIUM IN MASERU

REFS: MASERU 1527, 1544 AND 1547

1. AS SANON STATEMENTS SUGGEST THAT SYMPOSIUM IS LIKELY TO
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BENEFIT FROM WESTERN STATEMENT OF POSITION IN ORDER TO
BALANCE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHERS, USDEL SHOULD COORDINATE
ITS POSITIONS WITH THOSE OF OTHER WEO'S, PARTICULARLY
UK AND FRG. COORDINATION IS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY ON
NAMIBIA-RELATED MATTERS WHERE WE WOULD WANT TO MAIN-
TAIN THE COMMONALITY OF POSITION ESTABLISHED BY THE
FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DURING

THE NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. SUGGESTED STATE-MENT ON NAMIBIA FOLLOWS SEPTEL. USDEL MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING PARAS IN ESTABLISHING POSITIONS ON US INVEST-MENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN FIRMS IN SA AND MANDATORY SANCTIONS.

2. THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WHICH CONCLUDED WITH THE NOVEMBER 4, 1977 ADOPTION OF A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA (SC RES 418), MADE CLEAR THAT MANY NATIONS REGARD WESTERN ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, AND IN PARTICULAR THE CONTINUATION OF INVESTMENT, AS SUPPORTIVE OF APARTHEID. WHILE THE US NEITHER ENCOURAGES NOR DISCOURAGES PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF WESTERN COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA PROVIDE A USE-FUL MEANS FOR US TO WORK FOR POSITIVE CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

3. SINCE 1973, THE US HAS PUBLICLY URGED US FIRMS OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA TO FOLLOW ENLIGHTENED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, TOWARD ALL OF THEIR EMPLOYEES, REGARDLESS OF RACE. WE HAVE STRESSED THE NEED FOR FAIR AND ADEQUATE WAGES, INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK WORKERS TO RECEIVE TRAINING AND ADVANCEMENT, COMPREHENSIVE FRINGE BENEFITS AND THE RECOGNITION OF BLACK UNIONS. WE HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF THE REV. LEON SULLIVAN OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED STATES TO GAIN VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT BY US FIRMS ACTIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA RTO A SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE SIMILAR IN MOST RESPECTS TO THOSE ADOPTED BY THE EC. TO DATE, 103 US CORPORATIONS HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO THE SULLIVAN INITIATIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH VOLUNTARY EFFORTS HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN IMPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF US FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

4. IN OUR APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE US HAS CONSISTENTLY STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING A UNIFIED STANCE BY SOUTH AFRICA'S TRADITIONAL TRADING PARTNERS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SAG REALIZES THAT IT HAS NO SUPPORT INTERNATIONALLY FOR THE COURSE WHICH IT IS FOLLOWING IN ITS RACIAL POLICIES, AND THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THESE POLICIES WILL IN-EVITABLY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. IN ADDITION, WHILE THE ADOPTION OF A COMMON ATTITUDE ON EM-PLOYMENT PRACTICES WILL NOT OVERCOME AFRICAN OBJECTION TO CONTINUED ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND SOUTH AFRICA, IT WOULD ADVANCE THE COURSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, TO THE BENEFIT OF THE BLACK

POPULATION OF SOUTH AFRICA. ON THAT BASIS, WE REMAIN UNPERSUADED BY REQUESTS FOR THE CESSATION OF NEW INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND ON THESE SUBJECTS, OUR POLICY ON NEW INVESTMENTS AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IS UNDER REVIEW AND WE ARE FURTHER RESTRICTING EXIM FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO SOUTH AFRICA.

5. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED ADOPTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. IN OUR VIEW SUCH SANCTIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE UNENFORCEABLE AND WOULD CERTAINLY BE INEFFECTIVE AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING THE KINDS OF BASIC SOCIAL PROGRESS WHICH WE ALL DESIRE IN SOUTH AFRICA. IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER PRESCRIBES THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH MANDATORY SANCTIONS CAN BE APPLIED. WE ARE NOT PERSUADED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES APPLY IN THE CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

6. THE US BELIEVES THAT APARTHEID CAN BE CHANGED IN WAYS WHICH WILL ENABLE ALL SOUTH AFRICANS TO TAKE PART EQUALLY IN THEIR NATIONAL LIFE. WE APPRECIATE THAT SOME HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT ONLY VIOLENCE CAN BRING ABOUT THE KINDS OF FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS WHICH ARE NECESSARY. WE IN THE UNITED STATES CANNOT SUPPORT THE ARMED STRUGGLE BUT WE WOULD BE FOOLISH NOT TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INFLUENCING CHANGE ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. BUT IF THE CHANGES WE ALL DESIRE ARE TO COME ABOUT WITHOUT GREAT HARM TO THE PEOPLE AND INFRA-STRUCTURE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, THEY MUST BE PEACEFUL AND THEY MUST HAPPEN BECAUSE ALL SOUTH AFRICANS, THE RULERS AS WELL AS THE RULED, UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHANGES DEMANDED OF THEM ARE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS WITHOUT REGARD TO COLOR OR OTHER ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTIONS. IT IS NOT OUR PURPOSE OR POLICY TO PUNISH WHITE SOUTH AFRICA; IT IS TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF A TRULY JUST SOUTH AFRICA WHICH CAN REALIZE ITS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE CONTINENT.

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